

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 – 6 (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended): [[A]] An isolated 22.5 kD *Streptococcus uberis* protein or an immunogenic fragment of said protein having a length of at least 33 amino acids, characterized in that wherein said protein or immunogenic fragment thereof has a sequence homology of at least 93 % [[to]] with the amino acid sequence [[as]] depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2 and is immunoreactive with antisera from Streptococcus uberis infected cows.
8. (Currently Amended): [[A]] The isolated 22.5 kD *Streptococcus uberis* protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to claim 7, having an amino acid sequence homology of at least 94%, preferably 95%, more-preferably 96% [[to]] with the amino acid sequence [[as]] depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2.
9. (Currently Amended): [[A]] The isolated 22.5 kD *Streptococcus uberis* protein or an immunogenic fragment of said protein[[,]] according to claim 7, characterized-in-that wherein said protein or immunogenic fragment is encoded by [[a]] the nucleic acid sequence according to-claim-1-or-2, set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.
10. (Currently Amended): [[A]] An immunogenic composition comprising an isolated 22.5 kD *Streptococcus uberis* protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof[[,]] according to claim 7 for use in a vaccine.

Claims 11 – 20 (Canceled).